

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08881 142233Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 019322

R 141648Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1322

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 8881

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT GR

SUBJECT: GREEK COMMUNISTS TAKE STOCK AND FIND FLAWS

1. THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (EXTERIOR - MOSCOW BACKED) HELD THE THIRD (SINCE IT WAS LEGALIZED LAST YEAR) PLENUM OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION. THE PLENUM, INTERALIAN TOOK STOCK OF THE PARTYS PROGRESS, OR THE LACK THEREOF, SINCE THE LAST PLENUM IN JANUARY AND ISSUED A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "DECISION" AT ITS CLOSE (WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY THE PARTY ORGAN RIZOSPASTIS ON NOV 11).

2. THE "DECISION" IS NOTEWORTHY ON THREE COUNTS:
-- FIRST, IT POINTS TO FUTURE EFFORTS BY THE KKE (EXTERIOR) TO STRENGTHEN ITS COOPERATION WITH THE CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES, PASOK, AND OTHER LEFTIST FORCES, BUT EMPHATICALLY NOT THE RIVAL COMMUNIST PARTY:
-- IT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT ITS DISPUTE WITH THE BREAKAWAY GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR) HAS CONTINUED TO INTENSIFY; AND
-- IT SUGGESTS THAT THE KKE (EXTERIOR) CONTINUES TO BE DISSATISFIED WITH ITS PROGRESS AND WORRIED ABOUT ITS VULNERABILITY TO AN ANTI COMMUNIST REACTION.

3. IN THE DOCUMENT, THE KKE SET FORTH A NEW POLICY LINE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08881 142233Z

THE PARTY CALLED FOR A "CLOSING OF THE RANKS" AMONG "ANTI-

IMPERIALIST AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES" DESPITE "IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES". THE DOCUMENT EXPLICITLY STATES THAT THE PARTY IS NOT SEEKING A "MONOLITHIC COOPERATION" UNDER A "MONOLITHIC PROGRAM" BUT RATHER A CLOSING OF THE RANKS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. THAT IS, THE KKE WILL, FOR NOW AT LEAST, SEEK JOINT ACTIONS BUT NOT A POPULAR FRONT. UNDER THIS GUIDELINE THE KKE WILL, ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, SEEK COOPERATION WITH:

- THE CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES (DESPITE BASIC DIFFERENCES WITH THE POLICY OF THE CU/NF LEADERSHIP); SPECIFICALLY CITING GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO AND THE CLEANSING OF "FASCIST" ELEMENTS FROM THE GREEK BODY POLITIC AS AREAS WHERE THIS COOPERATION CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT;
- ANDREAS PAPANDREOUS PASOK PARTY, NOTING THAT DESPITE THE KKE'S DIFFERENCES WITH PASOK ON MATTERS OF "IDEOLOGY AND APPRECIATION", THE LATTER PARTY SUPPORTS BASIC POSITIONS "ON NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FOR GREECE AND ON DEMOCRATIZATION" WHICH CAN FORM A BASIS FOR A "COMMON STRUGGLE OF THE TWO PARTIES", (DURING WHICH STRUGGLE THE KKE MAY HOPE TO WIND UP WITH MOST OF PASOK'S FOLLOWERS);
- ALL OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING ILIAS ILIOU'S EDA, WITH ONE EXCEPTION.

4. THE INVITATION TO CLOSE RANKS WAS DEFINITELY NOT EXTENDED TO THE KKE (INTERIOR) (WHICH IS ONLY REFERRED TO DISDAINFULLY AS THE "REVISIONIST GROUP"). AS THE DOCUMENT STATES, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES "ARE SO DEEP AND FUNDAMENTAL THAT THEY MAKE UNREALISTIC ANY THOUGHT" OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DOCUMENT STATES THE KKE (EXTERIOR)'S INTENTION TO WORK WITH "ORGANIZATIONS AND MOVEMENTS" WHICH FOLLOW THE INTERIORS LINE -- IN OTHER WORDS THE EXTERIOR WILL SEEK TO UNDERMINE THE INTERIOR BY SNATCHING AWAY ITS SUPPORTERS.

5. THOUGH THE STATEMENT RITUALLY EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH THE PARTY'S PROGRESS, THROUGHOUT IT THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF THE KKE'S UNHAPPINESS OVER ITS CURRENT SITUATION AS WELL AS OF ITS CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE. ON THE FORMER COUNT, THE DOCUMENT CITES LABOR, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 08881 142233Z

CELL ORGANIZATION AS "BASIC PROBLEMS" TO BE ADDRESSED AND CORRECTED. THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IS EVIDENTLY DISSATISFIED WITH PROGRESS BEING MADE IN EACH OF THESE FIELDS.

6. LESS EXPLICIT, BUT NO LESS EVIDENT, IS THE PARTY'S CONCERN WITH THE EFFORTS IT BELIEVES ARE BEING MADE TO STIMULATE ANTI COMMUNISM IN GREECE. ACCORDING TO KKE'S DEMONOLOGY, THE US, MONARCHISTS, AND JUNTA SYMPA-

THIZERS ARE SEEKING TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF "ANTI-COMMUNISM" IN THE COUNTRY, THEREBY FORCING THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER TO THE RIGHT. THE GOALS OF THIS "REACTIONARY" CABAL -- THE PARTY SUGGESTS -- ARE TO COMBAT "DEMOCRACY AND ANTI-IMPERIALISM" IN GREECE. AND IT IS TO MEET THIS THREAT THAT THE PLENUM ISSUED ITS CALL FOR GREATER UNITY AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS.

7. WHATEVER THEIR OTHER MOTIVATIONS, IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS GENUINELY FEAR THAT EFFORTS TO STIMULATE ANTI-COMMUNISM -- AND SUCH EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE -- COULD SPREAD AND ULTIMATELY SUCCEED IN RETURNING THEM TO THE ILLEGALITY FROM WHICH THEY ONLY RECENTLY EMERGED. BY REACHING OUT TO OTHER PARTIES THEY MAY HOPE TO BUY INSURANCE AGAINST SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. MOREOVER, THE PLOY IS NOT PURELY DEFENSIVE. BY ATTACKING ANTI-COMMUNISM AND SEEKING TO HAVE OTHER NON-COMMUNISTS JOIN THEM IN THIS EFFORT, THEY CAN HOPE TO MAKE GENUINE INROADS INTO THE FUNDAMENTALIST BRAND OF ANTI-COMMUNIST WHICH IS SO WIDESPREAD IN GREECE AND WHICH FORMS ONE OF THE MAJOR BARRIERS TO THEIR POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

8. IT IS IRONIC THAT AT A TIME WHEN ELEMENTS OF THE GREEK RIGHT ARE RAISING NEW ALARMS ABOUT COMMUNISM, ONE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES SHOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT SO REDOLENT OF SELF DOUBT AND MODESTY. BUT THE KKE (EXTERIOR) HAS A GOOD DEAL TO BE MODEST ABOUT THESE DAYS. GREEK POLITICS ARE STILL DOMINATED BY PERSONALITY, AND THE KKE (EXTERIOR) HAS NO FIRST RATE PERSONALITIES OF ITS OWN NOR HAS IT FOUND ONE OUTSIDE THE PARTY TO BACK. MOREOVER ITS TIRED IDEOLOGY AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ITS TIES TO MOSCOW FURTHER DIMINISH ITS APPEAL HERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE KKE (INTERIOR) PARTY AND EDA, ITS MAJOR COMPETITOR ON THE MARXIST LEFT, MAY LACK FUNDS, BUT BOTH THEIR LEADERS AND THEIR PRETENSIONS TO A HUMANISTIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ATHENS 08881 142233Z

NATIONAL BRAND OF MARXIST LENINISM ARE, WE ARE FINDING, MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ANTI-MONARCHIST GREEKS GENERALLY AND LIBERAL YOUTH IN PARTICULAR.

THIS LATTER GROUP -- WHERE THE KKE (EXTERIOR) MUST LOOK FOR ALLIES -- MAKES NO BONES ABOUT ITS DESIRE TO SEE THE INTERIOR PROSPER AT THE EXTERIOR'S EXPENSE. THUS IT IS INSTRUCTIVE TO NOTE THAT NO POLITICAL GROUP HAS THUS FAR RESPONDED DIRECTLY TO THE KKE (EXTERIOR)'S CALL FOR A CLOSING OF "DEMOCRATIC" RANKS. NEVERTHELESS, THE KKE (EXTERIOR) HAS MONEY, DISCIPLINE AND ORGANIZATION, INGREDIENTS WHICH ITS RIVALS LACK AND WHICH MAY GIVE IT SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES OVER THE LONGER RUN.

KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS08881
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750398-0635
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751144/aaaabmny.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK COMMUNISTS TAKE STOCK AND FIND FLAWS
TAGS: PINT, GR, KKE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006